

RURAL DISTRICT OF CHELTENHAM

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
FOR THE YEAR 1952



Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health:

STEPHEN KNIGHT
M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.F.H.

Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector

E. H. ROSSER, M.R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

L. GROGAN
Certified Sanitary Inspector
Certified Inspector of Meats and Food

F. H. LEWIS
Certified Sanitary Inspector



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CHELTHENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the
Cheltenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I again have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District. Mr. E.H. Rosser, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports on the work of his department.

The vital statistics are good and compare favourably with elsewhere.

Except for ~~about~~ cases of poliomyelitis there was no serious outbreaks of infectious disease.

The Council maintained its good record with regard to housing, 88 houses were built by them and 91 by other agencies during the year.

Owing to the economic state of the country nearly all the schemes in the Council's sewerage programme have been postponed. Completion of the Water Undertaking has lead to increased consumption of water and aggravated the nuisances caused by the lack of means for the disposal of sewage. More and more villages, because of local conditions, are pressing for main sewerage and sewage disposal.

I am glad to be able to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council and the staff for all the help which I have received during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1953.

CHEL TENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	81,940
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (including members of the Armed Forces)	24,010
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1952)	6,637
Rateable Value (at 31.3.1953)	£153,372
Sum represented by a penny rate	£619

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	378	200	178
Illegitimate	18	11	7
Total	396	211	185

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	16.5
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.01
Corrected Birth Rate (16.5 x 1.01)		16.7

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	6	5	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	6	5	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	0.25
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	14.9

<u>DEATHS</u>	240	123	117
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	10.0
Area Comparability Factory(Deaths)	...	0.93
Corrected Death Rate (10.0 x 0.93)	...	9.3

NO. 30. DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Deaths per 1,000 total (live and still) births</u>
2	5.0

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Infantile Mortality)

Legitimate	11	7	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	11	7	4

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	27.8
-----------------------------------	-----	------

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE (Neonatal Mortality)

Legitimate	5	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	5	2	3

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	...	12.6
---	-----	------

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population again shows an increase over that for the previous year, 24,010 as compared with 22,940. The natural increase in population, excess of births over deaths, was 156.

BIRTH RATE

Births numbered 396 making the Birth Rate for the District 16.5 per 1,000 of the population. This rate is much the same as that for last year and is a little above the national rate, 15.3

DEATH RATE

Here again there is little change, 240 deaths, six less than the previous year. The local Death Rate is 10.0 which compares favourably with the national rate, 11.3

INFANT MORTALITY

Although the local infantile mortality rate rose from 15.5 to 27.8 per 1,000 live births in the year under review, this rate is still a little below that for the County, 28.2 and close to that of England and Wales, 27.6

Five of the eleven infantile deaths occurred within four weeks of birth. It is not unusual for half the infantile deaths to occur in this period. Neonatal deaths being the hard-core of infantile mortality.

CANCER

There were 40 deaths from cancer as compared with 39 last year. No less than 7 deaths were from cancer of the breast. Cancer in this site, and elsewhere if treated early, gives every chance of cure.

All too often patients put off seeking medical advice with tragic results.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	1
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	1
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	1	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	2	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	21

	Male	Female
18. Coronary disease, angina	14	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
20. Other heart disease	23	32
21. Other circulatory disease	6	4
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	5	2
24. Bronchitis	3	6
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	2
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	1
34. All other accidents	7	1
35. Suicide	2	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All causes	123	117

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES
IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	19.8	17.3	18.3	16.8	16.5
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	10.8	11.5	10.2	10.7	10.0
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of Infants under 1 year)	38.	27.	24.7	15.5	27.8
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of Infants under 1 month)				7.7	12.6

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE
MORTALITY RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC.
ARE GIVEN BELOW

	England & Wales	160 C.Bs. & Great Towns	County of Glos.	Cheltenham R.D
Live Births	15.3	16.9	15.6	16.5
Still Births (per 1,000 population)	0.35	0.43	0.33	0.25
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.3	12.1	11.11	10.0
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 Year)(Per 1,000 Live Births)	27.6	31.2	28.2	27.8
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 Month)(Per 1,000 Live Births)			20.6	12.6

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1952
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

	<u>Under</u> <u>1 Yr.</u>		<u>1 - 5</u>		<u>5 - 15</u>		<u>15-25</u>		<u>25 and</u> <u>upwards</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	5	10	-	-	2	2	8	12
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	3	3	8	3	2	-	-	-	-	6	13
Measles	7	9	96	82	91	61	3	3	2	1	199	156
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	1	5	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis												
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1

Scarlet Fever

The incidence of Scarlet Fever was light, only twenty cases were notified, a decrease of twenty-six from last year, the local case rate per 1,000 of the population was 0.83 as against 1.53 in the country as a whole.

Nowadays this disease is mild, complications are uncommon and fewer cases occur. As far as possible cases of scarlet fever are isolated at home. This practice has not caused any spread of the disease and valuable hospital beds have been released for other cases.

Diphtheria

No cases were notified.

Whooping Cough

The incidence of whooping cough also declined from 46 cases in 1951 to 19 cases in 1952, an incidence of 0.79 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 2.6 for England and Wales.

Measles

In common with experience elsewhere measles became epidemic, there were 355 cases, an incidence rate of 10.7 as compared with 8.8 in England and Wales.

Although the number of cases was large there were no deaths.

Poliomyelitis

There were four cases of poliomyelitis, one of them fatal.

Food Poisoning

(a) Total number of outbreaks	--	Nil
(b) Number of cases	--	Nil
(c) Number of deaths	--	Nil
(d) Organisms or other agents responsible, with number of outbreaks attributable to each	--	Nil
(e) Foods involved, with number of outbreaks associated with each food	--	Nil

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION
(in relation to child population)

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1952:

Age at 31.12.1952 i.e. born in year:	Under 1 Yr. 1952									
	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947 - 1943	1947 - 1938	1942	Total		
Number immunised	269	319	231	332	1,080	914				
Total number immunised	(34)	(1,185)	(231)	(332)	(1,080)	(914)				3,179
Estimated mid-year population, 1952		1,990			3,460					5,450

Number of children immunised in :	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Primary	416	429	209	297	211	249	335
Maintenance	311	247	166	316	94	192	178

416 children were immunised against diphtheria for the first time and this figure corresponds closely with the number of babies born during the year.

From this aspect alone the position with regard to immunisation against diphtheria might be regarded as satisfactory, but a check of the records of children under fifteen years of age shows that only 58 per cent are protected in this way and that only one out of three babies are immunised before their first birthday.

It is the object of the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign to secure the immunisation of not less than 75 per cent of babies before they are a year old. Although the District has been free from diphtheria, outbreaks with a high proportion of fatal cases have occurred elsewhere.

We know that there are diphtheria carriers amongst us and unless the level of immunisation is maintained at 75 per cent outbreaks of this dread disease are liable to occur.

There must be no slackening of effort in the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign, parents need to realise that diphtheria is a constant threat and to be persuaded to have their children immunised.

VACCINATION

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccination received during the year:

	<u>Under 1 Yr.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>15 or over.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vaccination	130	14	7	6	23	180
Re-vaccination	--	--	--	6	51	57

Vaccinations fell from 198 in 1951 to 180 in the year under review, although the acceptance rate for infants was fairly good, 32 per cent of babies under one year of age being vaccinated. This is a considerable improvement on the 12 per cent to which it had declined in 1948.

Even so the proportion of vaccinated babies is not high enough. A protected population is the barrier to the spread of smallpox; outbreaks in this country are bound to occur if people are unvaccinated, because modern means of transport bring people in from endemic areas of the world in very short periods.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

	<u>Children</u>		<u>All Persons</u>
	<u>0 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	
Pulmonary	--	1	10
Non-pulmonary	--	1	4

Deaths

Pulmonary	--	--	2
Non-pulmonary	--	--	1

Tuberculosis Register

The number of cases on the register, 31st December, 1952 was as follows:

Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary			All forms
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Total
73	33	106	14	15	19	135

Fourteen new cases of tuberculosis were notified, a welcome decline from the rather high figure of 25 last year.

There were three deaths from tuberculosis; modern treatment has brought about a considerable fall in the death rate from this cause.

The District is served by the visits of the Mass Radiography Unit to the neighbouring Boroughs of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury and special appointments are made for people working in factories in this District.

The Council are able to help in preventing this spread of pulmonary tuberculosis by ensuring that every consumptive patient is properly housed. If such a person has a separate bedroom the risk of spread to other people in the house is cut to the minimum.

When a risk of spread of tuberculosis exists because of bad housing conditions a recommendation is made to the Council and these cases are given priority for rehousing.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938
CLEAN FOOD

In contrast to the remarkable decline of other forms of infectious disease which has occurred in recent years, infections due to food poisoning continue to increase. Improvements in hygiene, sanitation and social conditions have rid the country of epidemics, but the changed eating habits of the nation have given rise to the risk of food poisoning. Nowadays many people, including children, take meals in canteens and restaurants. Outbreaks of food poisoning can occur where large quantities of food are involved so that there has to be overnight preparation and the food shortages tend to make the use of made up dishes common.

Although the danger is very real, even in this rural district, there were in fact no cases of food poisoning. This freedom speaks well for the scrupulous cleanliness of those engaged in the handling and preparation of food.

The food shops are subject to regular inspection, the public now demand hygienic methods and the trade are anxious and willing to co-operate.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 : Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

Section 1.

The Court made a Removal Order on an application under these Sections which deal with the removal of aged or infirm people living in insanitary circumstances and unable to devote to themselves and not receiving from other people, proper care and attention.

The person concerned was an old lady suffering from heart disease, living alone and dependant upon neighbours for help. One evening she fell while attempting to light the gas and lay there until morning. But for the fact that the door of the room was open there would have been a fatal accident.

In spite of her situation the old lady refused to go to a hospital voluntarily and an Order for her removal was obtained.

When the time for her removal came she said 'you must do with me as you wish' but she was glad 'there were nice kind people about to look after her.'

A number of other cases of similar type have been kept under observation and visited from time to time. The Home Help Service is of great assistance to lonely old people whose health is failing and enables many of them to carry on in their own homes.

Where they exist the activities of the Old People's Clubs are particularly valuable in preventing bad conditions arising. Absentees from the meetings are visited and help, if required, is given at an early stage when it is most useful. Then Old People's Welfare Committees, if formed, might well keep a list of elderly people who are living alone. They would be visited from time to time and if in need of help this could be provided.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service is maintained by the County Council and is obtained from Cheltenham Control Station (telephone number Cheltenham 3112) and in emergency dialing "999" to the local Exchange and asking for "Ambulance Service".

The Ambulance Service is supplemented by a hospital car service which is available for taking patients to and from appointments in connection with the National Health Service providing the use of public transport is not possible. Requests for this Service should be made to the Control Station at Cheltenham and at least 48 hours notice must be given.

Home Help Service

This Service is organised by the County Council and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness.

As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage because of infirmity.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings (telephone number : Cheltenham 55746)

Nursing in the Home

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the County Council. Information is available from the Council Offices or the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings, (telephone number : Cheltenham 55746).

Child Welfare Centres (Gloucestershire County Council)

Alderton	...	4th Wednesday
Apperley	...	2nd Wed. & 4th Thursday
Ashchurch	...	Alternative Tuesdays
Bishops Cleeve	...	Wednesdays
Dumbleton	...	4th Friday
Prestbury	...	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Leckhampton	...	Fridays
The Reddings	...	2nd & 4th Thursdays
Shurdington	...	1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Stanway,	...	2nd Friday
The Park, Stoke Orchard	...	Alternate Tuesdays
Twyning	...	2nd Thursday
Winchcombe	...	Alternate Tuesdays
Witcombe & Benthams.	...	2nd & 4th Mondays.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING

The following table sets out the number of new houses built in the post-war years:

	<u>New Houses Completed</u>							<u>Total at</u>
	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>31.12.52</u>
Permanent Houses, Cheltenham R.D.C.	14	44	54	79	80	100	88	459
Temporary Houses, Cheltenham R.D.C.	40	-	3	-	-	-	-	43
Housing Units, Former Camp Sites	131	90	4	11	4	6	-	164
(Less 32 dwellings demolished)								
Private Enterprise Bishops Cleeve	-	-	-	14	10	27	32	83
Housing Association	-	-	27	66	52	103	55	303
Cheltenham Corporation-	-	30	95	27	24	151	4	331

Apart from the Cheltenham Corporation who have now completed their housing scheme in Cheltenham Rural District, the tempo of house building continued at a high level.

HOUSING ACT, 1949, SECTION 20

The repair and reconditioning of existing houses is a very important part of the housing problem.

Many of the houses let at controlled rents and of those owner occupied fall far short of the standards and amenities which are expected today.

Little is being done to recondition these old houses although the cost would be far less than for building new ones.

Where houses are let at controlled rents it is not practicable to serve repair Notices under the Housing Act, 1936. Such a notice can only require repairs at a reasonable expense, i.e., recoverable from the rent. Nowadays, the rent from a controlled house, even if taken over a long period, would in no way meet the bill for its alterations. Under these circumstances the demolition section applies and its operation means the loss of a house to the District.

A little patching can be effected by using the nuisance sections of the Public Health Act, but if extensive repairs are called for the Judicature frown upon this method and regard it as a misuse of the Public Health Act.

Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 provides for generous grants to be made where the reconditioning of houses is carried out. Local Authorities may make grants to private owners for the provision of dwellings, by conversion of houses or other buildings and for the improvement of existing houses. The houses must have an estimated life of 30 years, and the standard of accommodation provided must approximate to that of a new Council house after the improvements have been carried out.

The grant is for fifty per cent of the outlay and the owner is entitled to increase the rent to give a return of 6% on his share.

These grants are also available to owner occupiers upon the same terms and conditions.

If the reconditioning costs the maximum allowed under this Section, £300, the Government grant will not exceed £400 and in this event the permitted increase in rent because of the owner's expenditure is £24 per annum.

In spite of this assistance since the Act came into force only 6 applications have been received.

Many people complain of the state of the houses they are living in but when proposals are put to them for alterations to be carried out on these terms, the majority prefer to stay as they are, in their dilapidated cottages, lacking most of the amenities, rather than pay the increase in rents.

It was hoped that a great deal of use would be made of this section and that it would be a means of dealing with this important aspect of the housing problem.

As time goes on more houses are falling into a state of decay, demolition becoming inevitable and the people displaced relying on the Council to provide new Council houses.

Total number of applications received	- 4
Applications approved by the Ministry	- 3
Applications disapproved by the Ministry	- 1
Applications not submitted to the Ministry	- Nil.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 - SECTION 269 Moveable Dwellings

There are more than 200 caravans stationed in the District and the number continues to increase.

The Public Health Act, 1936 enables the Council to require that arrangements for water supply, sanitation and refuse disposal are satisfactory.

In spite of the difficulties and lack of facilities the caravan sites are kept clean and tidy.

Nearly all these caravans are used as permanent homes and therefore it is most desirable that the sites should be well laid out with piped water supplies, drainage, water closets and washing facilities.

The provision of these amenities is not feasible when only a yearly licence for the caravan is issued. It does become a practicable proposition when a site licence for a number of caravans is granted. The difficulty with a site licence is that once granted it cannot be revoked, even so if the site owner is to be asked to provide these amenities he will expect some security of tenure.

WATER SUPPLY

The Council's schemes for providing a piped water supply in all the villages and hamlets in the District has already been completed.

The water supply of the Undertaking was satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year.

Fifteen samples for bacteriological and eight samples for chemical analyses were taken from the springs feeding into the Council supply. Reports on these samples were satisfactory except for one small spring in the Charlton Abbots group which has now been cut out and allowed to run to waste.

Eight samples which proved to be satisfactory were taken from various consumer points.

Thirty samples were taken from various private supplies, only five were satisfactory but appropriate action was taken in the other instances.

	<u>No. of houses</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied direct into houses</u>	<u>No. of Houses supplied by means of Standpipes</u>
Alderton	135	120	7
Ashchurch (incl. Aston Cross, Aston-on-Carrant, Fiddington & Pamington)	271	249	7
Badgeworth (incl. Bentham & The Reddings)	412	338	-
Boddington (incl. Hayden)	75	74	-
Bishops Cleeve	533	518	2
*Buckland (incl. Laverton)	75	67	7
Coberley	79	23	-
Cowley (Birdlip public, Cowley private supply)	87	72	-
Deerhurst (incl. Apperley & Walton Hill)	201	111	2
*Dumbloton (incl. Great Washbourne & Little Washbourne & Wormington)	166	87 (public) 67 (private)	-
Elmstone Hardwicke	55	50	5
Gotherington	110	90	10
*Great Witcombe	31	20	4
*Hawling	51	33	-
Leigh (incl. Coombe Hill)	94	92	-
Leckhampton	296	245	-
Oxenton (incl. Woolstone)	50	30	-
*Prescott	28	21	-
Prestbury	903	846	-
Shurdington	206	168	5
Snowhill	65	35	-
Southam	131	130	-
Stanton	86	78	4
*Stanway	140	139	-
Staverton	124	115	6
Stoke Orchard (incl. Tredington)	172	163	-
*Sudeley (including Charlton Abbotts)	45	33	-
Swindon (incl. Brockhampton)	106	98	2
Teddington (incl. Alstone)	53	53	--
Toddington	139	128	-
Twynning	245	87	-
Uckington	36	82	-
Up Hatherley	48	47	-
Walton Cardiff	15	15	-
Winchcombe (incl. Gretton and Greet)	856	832	19
Woodmancote	468	461	-
Total ...	6,637	5,720	80

* Private or part private piped supplies.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Starting dates had been planned for the undermentioned schemes in 1952:

Bishops Cleeve, Southam & Woodmancote
Snowhill
Little Witcombe
Prestbury
Staverton, Badgeworth & Shurdington
Great Washbourne
Birdlip

In April, the Ministry of Housing & Local Government intimated that because of the economic situation the Council would be unable to proceed with their programme of sewerage schemes except in cases of extreme urgency, such as that which arises where there is serious risk of pollution of a public water supply, and to meet the needs of new housing development.

Snowhill

Danger to public water supplies existed at Snowhill and the Minister allowed this sewerage scheme to proceed. A tender of £14,543 was accepted to provide sewers and a sewage disposal works; the contractors started work on 11th August and the scheme was largely complete by the end of the year.

Staverton, Badgeworth, Shurdington Sewerage Scheme

The Minister would only consider a modified scheme involving the construction of disposal works near Badgeworth Bridge, to which sewage from Shurdington could be gravitated through a new sewer to be laid from the existing sewage field in Shurdington. New works at this point would be capable of taking the sewage from Badgeworth Lane by gravitation.

The Council modified their proposals on these lines and the new scheme was approved in principle by the Minister.

The Council's housing development in Shurdington is contingent upon completion of this sewerage scheme.

Birdlip) These schemes were approved in principle
Great Washbourne) but permission to ask for tenders has not
Little Witcombe) yet been granted.

Bishops Cleeve, Southam, Woodmancote Sewerage Scheme

Work started on the £80,700 scheme in December to extend the sewers at Bishops Cleeve, Woodmancote and Southam and to improve and enlarge the Brockhampton Disposal Works.

Prestbury

Negotiations with the Cheltenham Corporation are in hand to divert most of the sewage from the Prestbury area to the Corporation sewers. The existing Prestbury Sewage Works will then be left to serve only a few properties.

Existing Conditions

As the modified scheme is for Shurdington alone bad conditions will be left in Badgeworth Lane where serious pollution of a brook takes place and an area of land adjoining has to be fenced off. Also the public will have to continue to put up with stretches of foul ditches alongside the roads in The Reddings and Banfurlong area. These ditches are in fact open sewers.

Sewers should be laid in the Up Hatherley area and connected to the nearby Corporation system. The subsoil here is clay, drainage problems are difficult and polluted ponds and ditches commonplace.

Swindon Village is also in need of main sewerage. Pollution of the Wymans Brook and Hyde Brook takes place from the Prestbury and Brockhampton sewage disposal works respectively. The Schemes outlined above and already in hand will, when completed, deal with these sources of pollution.

Conditions are bad in Gotherington, foul drainage finds its way to roadside ditches where it gives rise to a nuisance unless the ditches are cleaned out regularly. Palliative measures such as piping in stretches of ditch near houses have been carried out.

At Toddington and Laverton there are difficulties in drainage and serious pollution of streams is also taking place. Both places are in urgent need of sewerage schemes. At Birdlip such a scheme is necessary in order to safeguard underground water supplies.

CHELTONHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report by Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, on the work of his Department for the year 1952.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the honour to present the annual report on the work of the Department for which I am responsible to the Council.

The activities of the Council have continued to increase, and in the succeeding part of the report, I propose to deal with various duties under separate headings unless they have already been dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING.

The provision of housing accommodation is still one of the major tasks for the Council. As will be seen from the figures, 179 new houses were occupied during the year, but against this there are the facts that additional workers have been imported into the area during the year, the natural increase in the population, and the young couples who have married, or wish to be married, and desire a home of their own. Based upon an average of $3\frac{1}{2}$ persons per house, it means that during the year 627 persons have been found permanent accommodation in new houses.

There has been an increase in building costs during the year, and this unfortunately prevented a number of people proceeding with the erection of their own houses. The efforts of this Council have, in the main, been directed to providing housing at Ashchurch, Bishops Cleeve, Prestbury, Shurdington, Witcombe and Winchcombe. These are the main centres of population, and where the Council own sites, with services available. A small number of houses have been erected in other parishes; these are mainly to meet urgent agricultural needs.

The result is that the list of applicants for houses is approximately the same as a year ago. The number of houses erected by private enterprise shows a slight increase during the year, but it is anticipated that for the year 1953 there will be a marked increase under this heading as in December, 1952 the restrictions upon the erection of houses by private enterprise were lifted as regards numbers which can be erected at any one time.

The occupation of caravans is still increasing and more licensed sites came into use during the year.

Temporary Housing.

Under this heading we have included accommodation of former camp sites. The Council now control sites at Stoke Orchard, Shurdington and Witcombe. Families have been removed

from hutments at Northway and the site is now being used for the erection of permanent houses. The policy of the Council has been to re-house the families who have been on these sites for a long time. It was hoped that when the families were re-housed from Stoke Orchard, Shurdington and Witcombe, it would be possible to remove the buildings, but with the exception of a small number, the need for accommodation and the financial position has compelled the Council to continue to use these buildings, which are often sub-standard.

Many of these dwellings were improved in accordance with the terms set out in the circulars received from the former Ministry of Health, whereby the costs of adaptation were repaid by loans taken up for a period of ten years. Part of the costs of repayments were to be borne by the Ministry and part by the Council. It is now found that if the accommodation is not used for housing purposes the share of the costs which would have been borne by the Ministry will fall upon the Council. For this reason, therefore, it is necessary that this accommodation shall be used for as long a period as possible.

The following figures will illustrate the work involved in dealing with these sites :

No. of Dwellings at end of 1952	.. ..	164
No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors (not including conversions or matters arising therefrom)	.. ..	47
No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's Staff	.. ..	318
No. of visits (Repairs and Supervising Conversions)	.. ..	496

Other Activities in Housing.

Owing to the need for concentrating upon the provision of more houses, it has not been possible to undertake extensive works under the Housing Act, 1936. The repair and alterations of many houses is still an urgent matter, and the difficulties encountered in enforcing repair notices are well known to the Council. There is provision under the Housing Act, 1949, whereby owners can obtain grants for improvements to cottages, but the conditions under which the grants can be obtained are such that many cannot take advantage of these. There is no doubt that some modification in the regulations covering grants would lead to more applications being received and although the dwellings would not comply with all the details set out in the various circulars by the Ministry the result would be that more accommodation of a very much higher standard would be made available.

The following table shows the results obtained during the year :-

HOUSING ACTS.

Under the Housing Act the following figures relate :-

Housing inspections or re-visits		184
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List of Housing Repairs and Improvements.

No. of Informal Notices served	..	..	..	18
No. complied with	..	..	..	18
Roofs repairs	..	..	..	13
Ceilings repaired	..	..	..	3
Floors repaired..	..	..	..	4
Drains or drainage systems repaired or renewed	..	..	..	6
Water supplies improved	..	..	..	1
Plasterwork repairs	..	..	..	11
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	..	..	..	7

Requisitioned Properties.

At the end of 1952 the Council held under Requisitioning power 23 properties which gave accommodation to 31 families. It is the policy to derequisition these properties and during 1952 eight properties were released to the owners.

The following figures relate to these properties :-

Orders for repairs completed by Council's workmen	..	..	..	19
Orders for repairs completed by Contractors	..	..	..	29
No. of visits to inspect	..	..	..	68

Repairs to Council Houses.

Repairs to Council Houses are generally carried out by direct labour, and at the end of the year we employed a total of 21 men upon this work (not including the part time of the Foremen). The following figures show the work carried out :-

No. of Houses repairable by the Council at the end of 1952 (others will be released from contractors from time to time)	..	..	823
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No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's staff (an Order may contain several items)	..	..	801
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No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors, including Electricity and Gas	..	..	268
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Total .. 1069

No. of houses overhauled and redecorated externally	..	..	68
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No. of houses redecorated internally on change of tenancy	..	..	28
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No. of defective grates replaced	..	..	.7
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No. of defective sets of firebricks replaced	..	..	20
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No. of defective sinks replaced	..	..	10
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No. of defective wash-hand basins replaced	..	..	4
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No. of defective sanitary pails replaced	6
No. of W.C. basins replaced	9
No. of W.C. seats replaced	8
No. of defective draining boards replaced	20
No. of houses having gas coppers installed by Council	8
No. of gates renewed	4
No. of gate posts renewed	9
No. of roofs repaired	74
No. of visits to Council Houses for various purposes	2755
No. of cases where damage has been repaired at the tenants expense ..	9
No. of applications to erect Television aerials dealt with	50

BUILDING BYELAWS

The work in connection with the Building Byelaws has increased during the year as will be seen by the increase in the number of houses erected or in course of erection.

Towards the end of the year the report of the Joint Working Committee set up to consider the revision of the Building Byelaws was received and the Council will, during 1953, adopt new Byelaws as requested by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The following figures relate to work in connection with the receipt of plans during the year :-

Total number of plans received	276
Total number of plans withdrawn	-
Total number of plans considered	276
No. of plans re-submitted	48
Total considered by Committee	324
Total number of plans approved - permanent	251
Total number of plans approved - temporary	2
Total number of plans disapproved ..	23
Temporary approvals renewed	17
Plans declared of no effect	3
Temporary Buildings removed	3
No. of recommendations to Area Planning Office	127
No. of visits to properties and sites ..	1153
No. of houses completed by the Council ..	88
No. of houses completed by Housing Association	55
No. of houses completed by Private Enterprise	32
No. of houses converted to more dwellings or other buildings converted	7
No. completed by other Authorities ..	4

Each plan when received is checked and acknowledged and if there is any discrepancy and time permits, the owner's and architect's attention is drawn to this with a view to the necessary alterations being made prior to consideration by the Committee.

Every endeavour is made to inspect work at the following stages - excavation of foundations, completion of concrete foundations, dampcourse, roofing, testing of drains, installation of fittings, and completion.

In a number of cases the owners of houses have obtained loans through the Council under the Housing Act, 1949, and in such cases more frequent inspections are made, and the work is closely checked before certificates are issued for payments.

Control of Civil Building Regulations.

During the year the regulations limited the value of work which could be executed without licence to a sum not exceeding £100. but in December, 1952, notification was received that as from the 1st January, 1953, this limit would be raised to £500. This easing of the regulations is welcomed by all parties concerned with the repair and maintenance of housing accommodation. During the year the Council were limited as to the number of licences which could be issued for the erection of new houses, but in December these restrictions were to a great extent raised and it is anticipated that 1953 will show a marked increase in the number of houses to be erected by private enterprise. The regulations are, however, still in force as to costs, supply of timber etc., and each application has to be thoroughly investigated before the licence is issued. One effect, however, is that there is no longer a waiting list. At the time the restrictions were raised this waiting list totalled approximately 150.

During the year the Council were authorised to issue licences for the erection of 43 houses by private enterprise, and the choosing of the successful applicants from a list numbering approximately 150 was undertaken by a special Sub-Committee approved for the purpose. In addition fifteen licences to erect houses by private enterprise were issued on behalf of the Cheltenham Borough.

The following figures relate to the work during the year :-

Applications received	.. .. .	231
Licences granted (including Supplementary)		157
Licences issued by the Ministry of Works		78
No. of visits prior to the issue of licences		221

When authority is given for a licence to be issued, copies of the same have to be supplied to the Regional Office of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, together with the application for the licence so that they can issue the timber licence. In addition to this, a copy of each building licence for a new house was sent to the Central Land Board, Bristol, to inform them that Development was due to proceed.

The duty of checking the requirements of controlled materials is placed on the Local Authority.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Under this heading has been included the work in connection with milk supply, infectious diseases, water supply, nuisances, disinfestations, tents, vans and sheds, factories and workshops, pollution of streams, inspection of food premises, public conveniences, and sewage disposal etc., The following figures show the activities during the year :-

No. of complaints received or nuisances discovered	51
Nuisances abated	47
Complaints not justified	1
Informal Notices sent	22
Statutory Notices served	5
Statutory Notices complied with	5
No. of visits in connection with the above items	117
Premises disinfected	12
Premises disinfectated	9
No. of visits re disinfection	27
New drainage systems installed	56
Visits to new drainage systems	160
No. of visits to public conveniences	54
Infectious Disease visits	15
Miscellaneous visits	53

INSPECTION OF FOODS

The following food stuffs have been condemned :

	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>oz.</u>
Tinned Fruit	1	2	13	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tinned vegetables	1	2	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned fish	-	2	17	15 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tinned meat	1	1	19	4
Preserves	-	-	13	8
Custard Powder	-	-	15	-
Cereals	-	-	7	8
Ham	-	-	17	-
Cake & Pudding Mixture	-	-	4	-
Treacle	-	-	2	-
Salt	-	1	9	8
Cheese	-	1	16	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total	11	3	4	2
Soup	..	153	fl. oz.	
Milk	..	1176	"	
Pickle	..	758	"	
Total		2087	fl. oz.	

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

The Council decided to take action in the High Court with regard to the Site at The Tharf, Coombe Hill, in order to prevent recurrence of the nuisance which has arisen in this area from time to time. Proceedings in the past have been taken at the Local Police Courts and at the Quarter Sessions, but in spite of convictions the occupier continues to allow camping, and it is hoped that the Council will be successful in obtaining an order preventing this site being used at any time for this purpose.

The legislation now in force requires amendment to bring it into line with modern conditions and to eliminate weaknesses and defects.

The following figures relate to the activities in this section during the year :-

No. of new applications for licences received ..	70
No. of new applications approved (private sites),	63
No. of new applications approved (Council sites).	2
No. of new applications disaproved.. ..	4
No. of applications withdrawn.. ..	1
No. of visits to sites	207
No. of previous licences renewed	64

Factories Act, 1937.

No. of informal notices served	1
No. of unsuitable sanitary conveniences rectified	2
No. of other offences rectified	1
No. of visits to factories	89

Sewage Disposal.

In my previous report it was stated that the Council had submitted schemes to the Ministry for the extension of sewers at Bishops Cleeve, Woodmancote and Southam and for enlarging the Brockhampton works. Consent was received and works commenced in November, 1952.

Owing to the restrictions placed upon capital expenditure, the Ministry are not prepared to allow the scheme for sewerage at Staverton, Bamfurlong, The Reddings, Badgeworth and Shurdington, to proceed along the lines submitted, and the Council were asked to submit a modified scheme which would allow housing to proceed at Shurdington, and for Badgeworth Lane to be connected at some later date. The Council were also asked to defer, under the same circular, the sewer to Birdlip, Little Witcombe and Great Washbourne. Consent was received for the sewerage of Snowhill, and the provision of sewage disposal works. But for very bad weather, these works would have been completed in December, 1952. The accepted tender for this work amounted to £14,543.

There are a number of villages urgently requiring the provision of sewers and sewage disposal works, and amongst these should be included the villages of Gotherington, Laverton, Dumbleton, Toddington, Twynning and Swindon.

Samples of sewage effluents were taken periodically at the Council's sewerage works and 19 samples were submitted for analysis. Two effluent samples were taken from private disposal systems.

Water Supplies.

During the year work upon the completion of the laying of the mains to Wormington and Dumbleton, and the provision of additional pumps and the rising main from the Cleeve Hill pumping station to Dixon reservoir have been completed and brought into operation.

All supplies are chlorinated and samples periodically submitted for analysis.

During the year the number of samples submitted from the Council's supply totalled 33, and from private sources 30.

During the year the number of new connections to the mains totalled 184, of these 118 connections were made to the Council's mains, and 66 to the Cheltenham Corporation's mains.

The total length of cast iron distributor mains owned by the Council of diameters from 2 - 7 inches is approximately 103 miles. In addition there are very long lengths of galvanised pipes and approximately 6½ miles of 3 and 4 inch mains between the springs and reservoirs.

The most urgent outstanding matters are

- (1) the extension of the Stoke Orchard main to connect to the Bishops Cleeve area, and
- (2) the provision of a covered reservoir at Stanton.

Refuse and Salvage.

Regular collections of house refuse are made throughout the District. Weekly collections are made in the built up areas, fortnightly in the villages, and monthly in the more remote and scattered areas.

The controlled method of tipping is undertaken, and refuse is tipped at Gotheringto Fields, Shurdington, Snowhill and Prestbury.

The collection of waste paper was discontinued owing to the overstocking of the mills and consequent decrease in demand.

During the year the Council acquired the Old Brickyard at Greet, near Winchcombe, in order to have the quarry available for tipping. An enquiry was held by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and consent was received for the purchase of this site at a cost of £1,850.

The Council decided to purchase two new vehicles, and delivery of these was received during the year.

The cost of refuse collection is one which has caused a great deal of concern. There is the tendency of the Public to request more frequent clearances and this can only be provided by engaging more labour. At the present time there is a very high tax on petrol and with vehicles which have a high consumption per mile this adds a considerable amount to the costs of collection. During the last few years the holiday period

for employees has been extended to a fortnight, and the provision of labour for this period is an additional cost. Controlled tipping is another factor as the purchase of soil for blinding tips amounts to between £500 and £600 per annum. These are some of the factors which have contributed to the high costs and whilst the individual items may be considered desirable or necessary the provision of these additional items inevitably means an increase in rates.

This year I have prepared a summary of costs and have to report as follows :-

Refuse is collected weekly in the Parishes of Bishops Cleeve, Leckhampton, Frestbury (part Up Hatherley) and Winchcombe. Fortnightly collections are made in the remaining Parishes of the District with the exception of Alston, Teddington, Charlton Abbotts, Hawling, Elmstone Hardwicke, Leigh, Oxenton, Woolstone and Twynning which are collected monthly.

Vehicles 2 Shelvoke & Drewry 16/20 cu.yd.fore and aft tippers
1 Bedford Compressmore 18/20 cu.yd.
1 10 cu.yd. Bedford side loading tipper.

<u>Number of Dwellings</u>	.. .. .	6,637
<u>Quantity of refuse collected</u> (approx)	.. ..	30,000 cu.yds.
<u>Distance travelled by vehicles</u>	.. ..	37,000 miles
<u>Collection Costs.</u>		
Vehicle running costs	.. ..	£1,847.
Vehicle provision account		£. 684.
Wages	.. ..	£7,850.
Sundries	.. ..	£. 418.
Disposal costs (tip, blinding etc)	.. ..	£. 529.
Total	.. ..	£11,328.

Note. No apportionment of salaries for supervision etc., is included in this figure.

Unit Costs.

Collection and disposal	.. ..	7/6 ^d per cu.yd.
Collection and disposal (per house per annum)	.. ..	£1.14.1 ¹ / ₂ ^d
Vehicle running cost	.. ..	1/- per mile.
Vehicle cost (incl. provision account)		1/4 ¹ / ₂ ^d per mile.

Public Rights of Way.

No. of informal notices served	.. ..	6
No. of visits	.. ..	35

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

No. of informal notices served	.. ..	4
No. of licences issued to store petroleum	.. ..	72
No. of visits	.. ..	73

Prevention of damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The arrangements whereby the Pests Operator deals with Tewkesbury Borough and the Cheltenham Rural District continues to operate in a very satisfactory manner.

During 1952 the Pest Operator has made the following visits and treatments :-

	<u>No.of Treatments to premises</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>	<u>No.of Premises inspected (inc luding the clearing of baits.</u>
Cheltenham R.D.C. premises	96	284	77
Other premises in the Cheltenham Rural District	395	1,129	256
Premises in Tewkesbury Borough	116	322	23
	607	1,735	356

Total number of complaints received and visited 98.

In addition to the above work the undermentioned sewerage systems were treated during April and May, and the infested sewers again treated during October :-

Bishops Cleeve, Frestbury
Shurdington Winchcombe.
Tewkesbury Borough

S U M M A R Y

The foregoing report deals with the principal sections, but during the year there were other fields of activity such as dangerous structures, Milk and Dairies Regulations, Street Numbering, inspection of housing sites etc. These have entailed many visits and inspections.

The summary of the visits, apart from the maintenance of the Council's Water Supplies or the Clerk of Works on Housing, Water or Sewerage Schemes, is as follows :-

New Council Housing Sites	..	..	..	150
Temporary Housing	..	..	..	496
Housing Act Inspections	..	..	..	184
Requisitioned Properties	..	..	..	68
Council House Repairs	..	..	..	2755
Building Byelaw inspections	..	..	..	1153
Control of Civil Building	..	..	..	221
Public Health (Nuisances, Statutory Notices etc.)	..	..	..	426
Food and Drugs Acts	..	..	..	72
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	..	..	..	207
Factories and Workshop Act	..	..	..	89

carried forward.. 5821

	brought forward	5821
Sewage Disposal		474
Water Supply		132
Refuse and Salvage		408
Public Rights of Way		35
Petroleum Acts		73
Milk and Dairies		47
Miscellaneous visits		204
Attendance at Meetings		104

Total	7298
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No. of communications dispatched from the Office in the year	4135
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The year has again been one of increased activity, and I wish to thank all members of the staff for the good work they have done during the year, and for the friendly and close co-operation which has prevailed throughout.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council for the kindness and consideration which they have afforded when dealing with the work of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H. ROSSER

Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor

